USING OUTPUT MEASURES FOR EVALUATION

EVALUATION, SUPPORT, AND FUNDING

Good schools require school library media and technology programs that are integral to learning and teaching; however, in times of limited revenues and increasing demands, media and technology programs must compete with other educational priorities to obtain sufficient resources. To ensure that administrative support and financial resources are provided for quality programs, it is critical that media and technology personnel regularly evaluate and document all aspects of their programs. Research and data are needed to demonstrate how quality media and technology programs contribute to student learning and effective teaching.

USE AND AVAILABILITY OUTPUT MEASURES

For many years, public libraries have used "output measures" to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of programs and services. This process approach to evaluation was adapted by Frances Bryant Bradburn from her book, Output Measures for School Library Media Programs.

Output measures provide the data needed to document how the resources and services in the school library media center and in all areas of technology are used, and how well the program meets the needs of its patrons. "Use measures" provide data about how often resources or services are used by patrons. "Availability measures" document not only whether requested materials and services are available, but also whether the media coordinator and technology facilitator are accessible to assist students or to participate in collaborative activities with teachers.

OUTPUT MEASURES DOCUMENT:

- How resources and services are used
- How well the program meets the needs of its patrons

USE MEASURES DOCUMENT:

- How often resources or services are used

AVAILABILITY MEASURES DOCUMENT:

- If requested materials and services are available
- If the media coordinator/technology facilitator is accessible to assist

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